

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as shown below, in which deleted terms are shown with strikethrough and/or double brackets, and added terms are shown with underscoring. This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A casting die comprising:

a main body having a wall surface for defining a mold cavity; and

a cavity forming member having a wall serving as a portion of the mold cavity, the cavity forming member being integral with the main body;

said main body being made of steel, the steel being equivalent to steels designated as an SCM material or an SKD material;

said cavity forming member being made of maraging steel or a steel equivalent to steels designated as an SKH material which is better with respect to at least one of toughness, hardness, and thermal conductivity than the SCM material or the SKD material which said main body is made of,

wherein the material designations are as designated by Japanese Industrial Standards.

Claim 2. (Canceled)

Claim 3. (Previously presented) A casting die according to claim 1, wherein said cavity forming member is provided as an insert die.

Claim 4. (Previously presented) A casting die according to claim 1, wherein said mold cavity is bent or curved from a gate for receiving an introduced molten metal, and said cavity forming member is disposed in a position closest to said gate.

Claim 5. (Currently amended) A method of manufacturing a casting die having a main body having a wall surface for defining a mold cavity, and a cavity forming member having a wall serving as a portion of the mold cavity, comprising the steps of:

forming a main body of steel with a mold cavity defined thereby;

defining a recess in a portion of said mold cavity; and

placing a cavity forming member made of a material which is better with respect to at least one of toughness, hardness, and thermal conductivity than the steel which said main body is made of, in said recess in said main body,

wherein the cavity forming member is one of

- a) formed by depositing material on a face of the mold cavity through welding,
and
- b) fitted in or joined to the mold cavity.

Claim 6. (Currently amended) A method of manufacturing a casting die having a main body having a wall surface for defining a mold cavity, and a cavity forming member having a wall serving as a portion of the mold cavity, comprising the step of:

placing, in a portion of the mold cavity in the main body which has been used in a casting process, a cavity forming member made of a material which is better with respect to at least one of toughness, hardness, and thermal conductivity than steel which said main body is made of,

wherein the cavity forming member is one of

- a) formed by depositing material on a face of the mold cavity through welding,
and
- b) fitted in or joined to the mold cavity.

Claim 7. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 5, wherein said cavity forming member ~~comprises an overlay deposited by welding~~ is formed by depositing material on a face

of the mold cavity through welding.

Claim 8. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 5, wherein said cavity forming member comprises an insert die fitted in or joined to said main body.

Claim 9. (Previously presented) A method according to claims 5, wherein said mold cavity is bent or curved from a gate for receiving an introduced molten metal, and said cavity forming member is disposed in a position closest to said gate.

Claim 10. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 6, wherein said cavity forming member ~~comprises an overlay deposited by welding~~ is formed by depositing material on a face of the mold cavity through welding.

Claim 11. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 6, wherein said cavity forming member comprises an insert die fitted in or joined to said main body.

Claim 12. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 6, wherein said mold cavity is bent or curved from a gate for receiving an introduced molten metal, and said cavity forming member is disposed in a position closest to said gate.